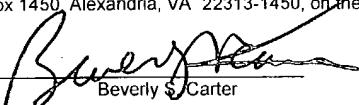


I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: May 7 2004

Signature:


Beverly S. Carter

Docket No.: 393032028600
(PATENT)

AF
2651

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re Patent Application of:

Hironari KOBAYASHI

Application No.: 09/976,818

Group Art Unit: 2651

Filed: October 12, 2001

Examiner: Unknown

For: AUDIO DATA
RECORDING/REPRODUCING
APPARATUS AND METHOD

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With reference to the subject application, and in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, Applicant(s) hereby make of record the enclosed Notice of Grounds for Rejection issued in the corresponding Japanese application No. P2000-317728. This document is submitted in both Japanese and its English translation. Since this is not a publication, no PTO Form 1449 is being submitted with this paper.

This statement is not to be interpreted as a representation that the cited documents are material, that an exhaustive search has been conducted, or that no other relevant information exists. Nor shall the citation of any document herein be construed *per se* as a representation that such document is prior art. Moreover, Applicant(s) understand(s) the Examiner will make an independent evaluation of the cited documents.

This Supplemental Information Disclosure is submitted within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or

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separate requirements are required. However, if applicable, a certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 (e)(1) has been provided.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this statement.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in the fees filed, asserted to be filed or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Deposit Account No. 03-1952, under Order No. 393032028600. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.

Dated: May 7, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By David L. Fehrman
David L. Fehrman

Registration No.: 28,600
MORRISON & FOERSTER LLP
555 West Fifth Street, Suite 3500
Los Angeles, California 90013
(213) 892-5601